

XVII.—*Obituary.*

CHRISTOPHER JAMES ALEXANDER.

C. J. ALEXANDER was born on 24 March, 1887, and was killed or died of wounds on 4 or 5 October, 1917. He was the son of Joseph Gundry Alexander and was born at Croydon; he was educated at Bootham School, York, and the South-Eastern Agricultural College, Wye, at both of which he obtained scholarships; he took his degree (B.Sc. Agric.) in 1908, and remained at Wye on the staff for another year. After devoting some time to mycological work in England, he went in 1909 to Rome as *rédacteur* in the International Institute of Agriculture, and continued that work until the beginning of 1916, when he returned to England to join the Army.

From his earliest years he showed the same love of natural history which continued to the end. During several months spent at Arcachon, when he was not twelve years old, he kept daily lists of the birds he saw. Whilst he was at school he kept careful diaries of observations on birds, plants, and insects; after he left school he continued daily notes of things seen and heard—including the song of birds, the first blossoming of flowers, appearance of certain insects, and appearance, increase, decrease, departure, and passage of migrants—until the day of his death.

He made very careful observations of bird-distribution and migration, first in Kent and other parts of England, and afterwards in the Province of Rome, where ecological study was of unusual interest, since he was able to obtain a pretty full knowledge of each zone from the Mediterranean to the Alpine, all within a radius of thirty miles.

In Flanders, too, he kept lists of the birds observed throughout the autumn and winter in the various departments and environments, from the prolific avifauna of the lower Somme in July to the sparse bird-life of the chalk-downs further north in mid-winter.

Early in 1917 he broke his leg, and was sent to England, where he remained in hospital at Newport, Mon., for a month, and then completed his convalescence by the River Usk, and later at Shoreham and Sittingbourne, returning to France at the end of July.

He was always shy and retiring, and did not easily make friends; he preferred to enlist as a private in the Army, where he soon became generally loved for his universal kindness and modest generosity to all whom he could help. It was typical of him that it was only after his death that any of his family learnt, from one of his Italian friends, that in one of the battles in which he took part he had captured a German prisoner and shared his last biscuit and water with him.

In advancing through the barrage to support the front line in one of the great Passchendaele battles on 4 October, 1917, he was hit by a shell and severely wounded; he appears to have died or been killed later the same day, after being put on an ambulance.

He became a member of the Union in 1911.

Much of his work remains unpublished, but the following articles from his pen, besides shorter notes, appeared in 'British Birds':—

"Some Observations on the Song-Periods of Birds," i. 1907-8, pp. 367-72.

"On a Plan of mapping Migrating Birds in their Nesting Areas," ii. 1908-9, pp. 322-6.

"The Notes of the British Willow-Tit," iv. 1910-11, pp. 146-7.

"Further Observations on the Song-Periods of Birds," iv. 1910-11, pp. 274-8.

"Notes on Zonal Distribution in the Mountains of Latium," xi. 1917-18, pp. 74-82.

"Observations on Birds singing in their Winter-Quarters and on Migration," xi. 1917-18, pp. 98-102.

H. G. A.

FERGUS MENTEITH OGILVIE.

We much regret to report the death from pneumonia of Mr. Ogilvie, which took place at his house at Oxford on 17 January last.

Born in London on 2 November, 1861, he was the son of Alexander Ogilvie, and was educated at Rugby and Cambridge, where he graduated M.A. and M.B. He was also F.R.C.S. England and L.R.C.P. London. He owned a beautiful estate in Argyllshire, Barcaldine, which formerly belonged to his mother, and a house at Sizewell in Suffolk.

Mr. Ogilvie became an ophthalmic surgeon and settled in Oxford in 1899, where he practised in partnership with Mr. Doyne. On giving up private practice in 1905, he was appointed Consulting-Surgeon to the Oxford Eye Hospital, a post which he retained till his death. It was his mother who founded the Margaret Ogilvie Readership in Ophthalmology in the University of Oxford.

From his boyhood Mr. Ogilvie was devoted to the study of birds. British birds and their habits especially interested him, and much of his spare time was devoted to field-work. He was cautious in accepting the evidence of others, and did not do so unless quite satisfied in his own mind as to their validity. His interest and attention was specially devoted to the sea- and shore-birds: ducks and geese, waders and game-birds—upon all of which he was a very reliable authority.

His collection of British birds, beautifully set up, is very fine and comprehensive, and was exhibited in a special museum-room erected at his home in Suffolk. He had also an extensive series of skins, also admirably prepared and carefully labelled, and forming one of the most important private collections of the kind in Great Britain.

His natural reserve and dislike of ostentation militated against even his more intimate friends gaining a real insight into the trend of his thoughts and the extent and nature of his observations. He seems to have published

but few of his vast store of notes, and it was only during the last few weeks before his death that he was engaged in putting into definite form some of the results of his researches.

Ogilvie became a member of the Union in 1892, and was an original member of the B. O. C., the meetings of which he occasionally attended. He exhibited a pair of Red-crested Pochards killed in Suffolk in 1904, and made another communication to the Club in 1909 on the subject of an immature Golden-eye, also killed in Suffolk, which he believed to be Barrow's Golden-eye (*Glaucionetta islandica*), but which was subsequently shown to be the common species (*vide* B. O. U. List, new ed., p. 346).

He leaves a widow and one daughter, and his death is not only a loss to ornithology but also to the Oxford Eye Hospital and other institutions with which he was closely connected.

We are indebted to a notice in the 'Oxford Chronicle' of 26 January last for most of the information contained in this article. It was written by his friend Mr. Henry Balfour, Curator of the Pitt-Rivers Museum at Oxford.

FRIEDRICH HERMANN OTTO FINSCH.

The announcement of the death of Prof. Dr. Otto Finsch, which took place at Brunswick on 31 January, 1917, has, we regret to say, only recently reached us. Dr. Finsch was the oldest of the Honorary Members of the Union, having been elected as long ago as 1872.

Born at Warmbrunn in Silesia on 8 October, 1839, Finsch was brought up in business, and, so far as ornithology was concerned, was entirely self-taught. In 1858 he acted as a private tutor to a family at Rustchuk in Bulgaria, and his earliest contribution to ornithology was a paper on the birds of that country, published in the 'Journal für Ornithologie' in 1859. In 1861 he became a Scientific Assistant in the Museum at Leyden under Schlegel and began to write regularly on birds in his chief's

journal, the 'Ned. Tijdschrift Dierkunde.' He returned to Germany in 1864 to succeed Hartlaub as the Curator of the Museum at Bremen. His monograph on the Parrots appeared in 1867, and is one of the best pieces of systematic work of that period. In the same year appeared his 'Ornithology of Central Polynesia,' in which he collaborated with Hartlaub. Three years later the same authors published 'Die Vögel Ost-Afrikas,' which formed the fourth volume of the account of the travels of Carl von der Decken in East Africa and was issued as a memorial to that ill-fated explorer. This work was the foundation of our knowledge of the birds of East Africa and is well known to all workers on African ornithology.

About this time Finsch began to visit England, where he was very well known to many of the ornithologists of the mid-Victorian age. He was invited to prepare a report on the birds collected during the Abyssinian campaign by W. Jesse, which was published in the 'Transactions of the Zoological Society' in 1870, while his first paper in 'The Ibis' on some New Zealand birds collected by Julius von Haast appeared in 1869.

He made excursions to California in 1872 and to Lapland in 1873, and three years later he accompanied Alfred Brehm and Graf Walburg-Zeil-Trauchburg in a journey of zoological exploration in western Siberia. This expedition was undertaken on behalf of the Bremen Geographical Society, and Finsch sent some letters describing his route and the birds met with to 'The Ibis,' which will be found in the volume for 1877.

Finsch was now a traveller of considerable experience, and, having resigned in 1878 his Curatorship of the Bremen Museum, he started off on his first great journey to the South Seas, assisted by the Humboldt fund in Berlin; this occupied the years 1879-1882. He visited the Polynesian Islands, New Zealand, Australia, and New Guinea, and sent to 'The Ibis' for 1880-82 a series of nine letters describing his progress and his ornithological experiences.

His second journey to the Pacific in 1884-6 was of a more dramatic nature. The peaceful bird-collector became Bismarck's Imperial Commissioner, and it was through his efforts and negotiations that the northern portion of New Guinea together with New Britain and Ireland became German territory, and were renamed Kaiser Wilhelm's Land and the Bismarck Archipelago. Finsch's own name is recorded in Finsch Hafen, the capital of the Colony.

From 1886 to 1897 Finsch lived near Bremen, working out his South Seas collections and specially his ethnographical material, while he published an account of his momentous journey in 1888 under the title "Samoa Fahrten," an allusion to the name of the vessel in which he travelled out to the islands. He returned to Leyden as Curator of the bird collections of the Rijk-Museum in 1898, having been appointed to succeed Büttikofer, and in 1904 he went back to Germany as Curator of the Ethnographical section of the Municipal Museum at Brunswick, a post which he held until his death.

In addition to the larger works, the most important of which have been already mentioned, Finsch published a large number of papers in 'The Ibis,' the 'Journal für Ornithologie,' and in many other periodicals. His publications number over 150. He described 14 new genera and 155 new species of birds, while 24 bear his name, as well as many other animals and plants discovered during his travels.

A complete account of his travels and of his literary and scientific activity will be found in a little volume published at Berlin in 1899 under the title 'Otto Finsch: Systematische Uebersicht der Ergebnisse seiner Reisen und schriftstellerischen Thätigkeit (1859-1899).'

His work in ornithology was entirely systematic, and it was accurate and reliable, but during the last twelve years he had given up the study of birds for ethnology, so that his name is not so well known among the younger workers in ornithology, but he was one of the best of the old school of German workers.

EDWARD SNOW MASON.

We much regret the delay in noticing the death of Colonel Mason, which occurred at Lincoln on 13 March, 1917. He was elected a member of the Union in 1897.

The late Colonel was born in 1838 and was the son of Richard Mason, for many years Town Clerk of Lincoln. He was educated at Rugby and entered the Army in 1854. He saw a good deal of service in India, where he was during the latter part of the Mutiny campaign. During the last five years of his service, which ended in 1895, he was Hon. Colonel Commanding the 3rd Battn. Lincolnshire Regiment. Long before his retirement from the Army, Colonel Mason had interested himself in the public life and many of the commercial undertakings of Lincolnshire. He was a Magistrate and for some time Chairman of Petty Sessions, and a Director of Joseph Rodgers & Sons of Sheffield and Clayton & Shuttleworth and of other well-known companies.

As regards ornithology he had a valuable collection of albino birds, as well as of albinos in other groups of animals. This remains in the possession of his son Richard, to whom it was bequeathed. He was also a good shot and a well-known sportsman in Lincolnshire.

SIR HENRY JAMES JOHNSON.

Sir Henry J. Johnson, who died from pneumonia at his house in Sloane Gardens, S.W., on the 1st of March, 1917, was elected a member of the B. O. U. in 1915. We regret that a notice of his death has not been previously given.

The son of Manuel John Johnson of Oxford, Radcliffe Observer, Sir H. Johnson was born in 1851 and was educated at Oxford where he graduated M.A. He was admitted Solicitor in 1879. He was eventually the head of the well-known firm of Waltons, Solicitors to the Corporation of Lloyds and to many of the principal shipping firms. He was President of the Law Society in 1910-11, in which latter year he was knighted.

Sir Henry Johnson took great interest in birds and became a member of the Union and the Club, the dinners of which he occasionally attended, but he did not, so far as we are aware, make any original contributions to ornithology.

GEORGE HOGARTH DAWSON.

We regret to record the death of Mr. G. H. Dawson, which occurred very suddenly on 12 October, 1917, in London.

Born in 1845, he was a member of Lloyds and was head of the firm of Dawson Brothers. He was a keen sportsman and a good polo player, but had to relinquish the game owing to a severe accident. He was also an enthusiastic fox-hunter and rode with the Essex hounds for 59 seasons. After his accident at polo he continued to hunt, riding on a lady's side-saddle, as he was unable to sit on an ordinary cross-saddle.

He was keenly interested in bird-life and a good observer, and was elected a member of the Union in 1915.

We also regret to have to record the recent death of Prof. Martorelli of the Civic Museum at Milan, a Foreign Member of the B. O. U. since 1903. We hope to publish a notice of his ornithological activities in the next number of 'The Ibis.'

XVIII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

Andrews on Fossil Birds from Glastonbury.

[Report on the remains of Birds found in the Glastonbury Lake Village. By C. W. Andrews. Extract from "The Glastonbury Lake Village," by A. Bulleid and H. St. George Gray, vol. ii. pp. 632-637, fig. 179, 1917. 4to.]

This is a reprint of an article previously published by the author in 'The Ibis' for 1899 (pp. 351-358) with some additional notices of bones found since that date, at the